

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 EURE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/058 W

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O 131245Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9766
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, CGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY DETENTION OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT

REF: (A) STATE 162258, (B) MOSCOW 10008, (C) MOSCOW 9952

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS ATTACHE, CALLED ON MFA
USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV 11:30 LOCAL TIME JULY 13 TO DELIV
ER
NON-PAPER ON REDMONT INCIDENT. ALSO PRESENT WAS NEW USA DIVISION
BILATERAL AFFAIRS COUNSELOR VIKTOR ISAKOV (WHO REPLACED CHETVERIKOV).
2. POLCOUNS BEGAN MEETING BY HANDING OVER THEM READING FULL TEXT
OF NON-PAPER AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TEXT) THE EMBASSY PROTESTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OVER THE CRUDE PHYSICAL ATTACK UPON BERNARD REDMONT, CHIEF OF
THE MOSCOW BUREAU OF THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM (CBS), ON THE
MORNING OF JULY 12. SUCH ATTACKS UPON THE PERSON OF AN AMERICAN
CITIZEN AS WELL AS INTERFERENCE WITH AN ACCREDITED JOURNALIST ENGAGED
IN LEGITIMATE NEWSGATHERING ACTIVITIES ARE CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE, AND
THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THE MINISTRY TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE
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NECESSARY BOTH TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TO FACILITATE THE
WORK OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 ON THE MORNING OF JULY 12, MR.
REDMONT, ASSISTED BY CAMERAMAN KARL HOEFLE, A CITIZEN OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ALSO EMPLOYED BY CBS, HAD JUST
FINISHED FILMING IN THE VICINITY OF UGOL'NAYA PLOSHCHAD' ON

THE SADOVOYE KOL'TSO WHEN AT LEAST TWO MEN BURST OUT OF THE GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN PEACEFULLY WATCHING THE FILMING. WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION WHATSOEVER, THESE MEN SET UPON MR. REDMONT AND MR. HOEFLE, ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE OR DAMAGE THE LATTER'S CAMERA EQUIPMENT. THE EMBASSY NOTES WITH PARTICULAR DISPLEASURE THAT ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT ON A MAJOR THOROUGHFARE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MILITIA WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE SCENE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, DURING WHICH TIME MR. HOEFLE WAS KICKED AND BOTH MEN WERE PHYSICALLY ABUSED AND MANHANDLED.

THE EMBASSY INSISTS THAT THOSE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UNCONSCIONABLE ASSAULT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. FURTHER THE EMBASSY REPEATS ITS EXPECTATION THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL ENSURE THAT SUCH CRIMINAL ATTACKS DO NOT RECUR. THE EMBASSY FEELS IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT TO THE MINISTRY THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE CAN ONLY CAST INTO DOUBT THE COMMITMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS, AS STATED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. (END TEST).

WHEN HE FINISHED READING, POL COUNS EMPHASIZED THAT "WE DO, AS I INDICATED, TAKE THIS VERY SERIOUSLY AND WE HOPE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE CAN BE BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT."

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3. FEDOSEYEV RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WAS "SORRY THIS TOOK PLACE" BUT THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT PROTEST BECAUSE HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCIDENT. HE ADDED CUSTOMARY "WE WILL LOOK INTO IT" BUT THEN STATED THAT DETAILS AS RELATED BY CORRESPONDENTS "SOMETIMES DO NOT FIT WITH WHAT HAPPENED." ISAKOV JUMPED IN WITH OBSERVATION THAT CORRESPONDENTS WERE PROBABLY FILMING DRUNKS, THAT DRUNKS DIDN'T LIKE THIS, AND THAT RESULT WAS THEREFORE "UNDERSTANDABLE."

4. POL COUNS ENDED DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT FILMING HAD PROCEEDED UNEVENTFULLY UNTIL VERY END WHEN ATTACK TOOK PLACE, AND THAT EMBASSY WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED ABOUT SOME OF MILITIAMAN ON SCENE WHO DID NOT INTERVENE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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